

23. The method, as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising the step of reassembling the disk drive followed by the step of removing at least a portion of said protective coating.

24. The method, as claimed in Claim 23, further comprising the step of testing said disk drive.

25. The method, as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising the step of removing at least an additional portion of said protective coating after said step of reassembling the disk drive.

26. The method, as claimed in Claim 25, further comprising the step of testing said disk drive.

27. The method, as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising the step of removing at least an additional portion of said protective coating from said head element after said step of reassembling said disk drive.

28. The method, as claimed in Claim 27, further comprising the step of testing said disk drive.

29. The method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said protective coating thickness comprises at least one monolayer.

30. The method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said protective coating thickness comprises at least 50 angstroms.

31. The method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said protective coating is applied having a thickness up to approximately 250 angstroms.

32. In a disk drive having at least one head element, said disk drive having been opened after initial assembly for purposes of reworking, and the head element having been removed, the improvement comprising:

5 a protective coating applied to said head element to reduce corrosive effects from the surrounding atmosphere.

33. The improvement, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating is applied in a vacuum chamber.

34. The improvement, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating is applied utilizing a solvent-mediated deposition process.

35. The improvement, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating is applied utilizing a vapor-mediated deposition process.

36. The improvement, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating comprises a fluorocarbon polymer.

37. The improvement, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating is a thickness of greater than 50.

38. The improvement, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating is applied by depositing precursor molecules in the vapor phase.

39. The improvement, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating is exposed to an energy source selected from the group consisting of infrared, ultraviolet, plasma, or radiant heat.

40 The method, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating thickness comprises at least one monolayer.

41. The method, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating thickness comprises at least 50 angstroms.

42. The method, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said protective coating is applied having a thickness up to approximately 250 angstroms.